

CLAIMS

I/we claim:

1. A pet shelter comprising:
 - a hollow housing having an interior sufficiently large to comfortably receive at
5 least one dog and further having a generally rigid floor, generally rigid roof and at least one generally rigid side wall extending between the floor and the roof and only partially surrounding the interior;

at least one electric heat generator positioned within the housing to radiate into the interior; and
10 a sensor within the housing responsive to the presence and absence of an animal in the interior and operably coupled with the electric heat generator to automatically switch the electric heat generator on and off, respectively.
2. The shelter of claim 1 wherein the hollow housing is a generally ovoid shaped foam material structure having a single side wall opening.
- 15 3. The shelter of claim 1 wherein the heat generator is a ceramic member with a resistance heating element therein.
4. The shelter of claim 3 wherein the heat generator is located in the floor.
5. The shelter of claim 3 wherein the heat generator is located in a portion of the housing other than the floor.
- 20 6. The shelter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is a pressure responsive sensor located in the floor.
7. The shelter of claim 6 further comprising a moisture proof flexible membrane applied to an upper surface of the floor over the sensor.
8. The shelter of claim 1 further comprising a moisture proof covering applied to
25 an upper surface of the floor.
9. The shelter of claim 1 wherein the sensor includes an infrared emitter and an infrared receiver positioned to receive infrared light from the infrared emitter.

10. The shelter of claim 1 further comprising an electric power cord extending from the housing and having a first end at least operably coupled with at least the electric heat generator and a second end with a conventional male electric plug member.

5 11. The shelter of claim 10 further comprising a ground fault interrupt circuit operably coupled with the electric power cord between the plug member and the electric heat generator.

12. The shelter of claim 1 wherein the housing has a single front opening and the shelter further comprises a movable closure over the front opening configured to permit an animal to push aside the closure and pass through the opening.

10 13. The shelter of claim 1 wherein the housing has a single front opening and the shelter further comprises a rigid closure removably secured over at least a lowermost portion of the front opening so as to close the opening to passage therethrough.